

Appl. No. 10/740,260  
Docket No. 9476  
Amdt. dated September 27, 2007  
Reply to Office Action mailed on June 27, 2007  
Customer No. 27752

## REMARKS

### Claim Status

Claims 1, 11 and 22 have been amended to define the claimed invention with greater specificity by reciting that the method comprises the step of redistributing at least a portion of the synthetic fibers within the fibrous structure by heating the synthetic fibers within the fluid-permeable areas of the molding member resulting in a pattern of micro-regions corresponding to the fluid-permeable areas of synthetic fibers. Support for these amendments is found throughout the Specification, especially at page 11, lines 3-14 and page 17, lines 20-25, and in the original Claims as filed.

Claims 6, 13 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-4, 7-12 and 15-22 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

### Rejection Under 35 USC §102/103 Over U.S. Patent No. 6,861,380 B2

Claims 1-3, 6-20, and 22 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over U.S. Patent No. 6,861,380 B2 to Garnier, et al. ("Garnier"). The Examiner asserts that Garnier teaches a method of making multilayered paper webs in which the web is formed by at least one layer of a blend of synthetic and cellulosic fibers. The Examiner asserts that the step of redistributing some of the synthetic fibers within its webs is inherently taught by Garnier since some of the synthetic fibers would be at least softened by the heat of the dryer.

Applicants respectfully submit that Garnier fails to teach each and every element of Claims 1, 11 and 22, the independent claims, as amended, because Garnier fails to teach that some of its synthetic fibers are redistributed by heating the synthetic fibers within fluid-permeable areas within a molding member resulting in a pattern of micro-regions corresponding to the fluid-permeable areas of synthetic fibers within the resulting fibrous structure. Applicants understand the Examiner's interpretation of Garnier and appreciate that synthetic fibers within Garnier's web may redistribute such as soften upon being subjected to heat. However, Applicants submit that Garnier clearly fails to teach

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that its synthetic fibers would be redistributed resulting in a pattern of micro-regions of synthetic fibers in its web.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 11 and 22, as amended, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Garnier. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 2-3 and 8-10, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, as amended, and Claims 12 and 15-20, which ultimately depend from Claim 11, as amended, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Garnier for the same reasons that Claims 1 and 11, as amended, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Garnier.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over Garnier in view of

U.S. Patent No. 5,490,572 or U.S. Patent No. 5,405,499

Claims 4 and 21 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over Garnier, described above, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,490,572 to Kershaw, et al. ("Kershaw") or U.S. Patent No. 5,405,499 to Vinson, et al. ("Vinson"). The Examiner recognizes that Garnier fails to teach the coarseness of the short cellulosic fibers. The Examiner asserts that Kershaw and/or Vinson teach short cellulosic fibers with low coarseness. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to use the short, low coarseness fibers of Kershaw or Vinson in the web of Garnier.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4 and 21, which ultimately depend from Claims 1 and 11, as amended, respectively, are not rendered obvious over Garnier in view of Kershaw and/or Vinson for the same reasons that Claims 1 and 11, as amended, are not rendered obvious over Garnier. MPEP 2143.03.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over Garnier in view of Applicants Admission

Claims 11-20 and 22 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over Garnier, described above, in view of Applicants' Admission. The Examiner asserts that Applicants admit that forming structures having channels forming a pattern are well known in the art and therefore could be used in conjunction with Garnier's web.

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Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 11, the independent claim, as amended, is not rendered obvious over Garnier in view of Applicants' Admission because Garnier in view of Applicants' Admission fails to teach that some of its synthetic fibers are redistributed by heating the synthetic fibers within fluid-permeable areas within a molding member resulting in a pattern of micro-regions corresponding to the fluid-permeable areas of synthetic fibers within the resulting fibrous structure.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Claim 11, as amended is not rendered obvious over Garnier in view of Applicants' Admission. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 12, 15-20 and 22, which ultimately depend from Claim 11, as amended, are not rendered obvious for the same reasons that Claim 11 is not rendered obvious over Garnier in view of Applicants' Admission. MPEP 2143.03.

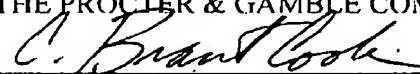
#### Conclusion

This response represents an earnest effort to place the present application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as claimed from the applied reference(s). In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendment(s) presented herein, reconsideration of this application, and allowance of the pending claim(s) are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY

By



Signature

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